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1878

MINUTES

OF

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

OF THE

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

Held at CLEAR CREEK, near

MT. PALATINE, PUTNAM CO., ILL.

NINTH MONTH, 1878.

CHICAGO:
A. J. GOFF & Co., Printers,
148 Clark Street.

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MINUTES

AND

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

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ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,

Gathered in its Fourth Annual Session at Clear Creek, Near Mt. Palatine, Putnam Co., Ills., the 16th of 9th Month, 1878.

Minutes of Men's Division.

2.—The Representatives on being called, were all present as follows:

From Blue River—Joseph Hartley, Charles Brooks, Richard M. Lukens, James W. Heacock, James B. Moore, John Anthony and Abel Mills.

From Prairie Grove—Thos. E. Hogue, Robert Blackburn, Joseph A. Dugdale, Mahlon Hollingsworth, Borden Stanton, Benj. F. Nichols, Jesse Holmes, Benj. Mead and Lot Holmes.

3.—Epistles were received from our Friends of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Genesee, Ohio and Indiana Yearly Meetings, which were read to our comfort and strength.

4.—Sidney Averill, Thos. D. Tomlinson, Wm. M. Price, Edward Coale, Samuel B. Walton, Levi Pilkington, Thos. E. Hogue, Isaac P. Wierman, Amos B. Wilson and Isaac Brooks, were appointed to prepare and produce to a future session suitable epistles, to be forwarded to the other yearly meetings of this society.

5.—To assist the clerks in revising the Minutes, have 1500 copies printed and distributed in due proportions to the several monthly meetings of this body, and to gather and present to a future session a minute of the exercises thereof for publication with its Minutes, Jesse Holmes, Cary O'Neal, Jas. W. Heacock, Griffith E. Coale and Caleb Russell were appointed. They are authorized

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to call upon our Treasurer for the necessary funds to print and distribute the Minutes, and report of their care next year.

6.—In the reports from the Quarterly Meetings, we are informed that Men Friends, of Blue River, have appointed as members of the Representative Committee, Charles Brooks, Richard M. Lukens, Joshua L. Mills, and from Prairie Grove, Edward Whitacre, Robert Blackburn and Benj. F. Nichols.

7.—Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting reports having forwarded its quota of Y. M. funds by Mahlon Hollingsworth, who reports having paid the amount, being $135, to the Y. M. Treasurer.

8.—As members of the Representative Committee, we appoint Benj. Bedell, David Wilson, Joseph Hartley, Abel Mills, Henry Atherton, James W. Heacock, Thomas E. Hogue, Levi Pilkington, Caleb Russell, Edward Coale, J. W. Plummer, Morris A. Wilson, Samuel B. Walton, Mahlon Hollingsworth, Jesse Mowrey, Thos. D. Tomlinson, Upton Elliott, Jesse Holmes, Henry Bedell, Elihu Durfee and Elida John, who, with those appointed by Women's meeting, together with those whose names were forwarded in the reports from the Quarters, are to constitute the Representative Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting for the ensuing three years. The Committee is directed to meet at 8 o'clock Fourth Day morning to organize and receive such business as may be referred to it.

9.—To settle with the Treasurer, ascertain the sum needed for the Yearly Meeting fund, and propose a suitable Friend to serve as Treasurer the ensuing year, Daniel Parmer, John Heacock, Joshua L. Mills and Robert Blackburn are appointed.

10.—The committee to assist the clerks in revising the Minutes last year, and to print and distribute the same, reports the duty performed.

11.—The Committee appointed last year upon the revision of the Discipline made a report, accompanied by the manuscript result of their labor; having omitted to include the number of copies needed, and probable cost, the subject is again referred to them for

full report at the conclusion of the reading of the queries and answers.

12.—Women Friends concurring, the Meeting directs the consideration of the revised disciplinary report in joint session, at the conclusion of the reading of the report of the committee having it in charge.

13.—The committee appointed last year to forward the memorials on International Arbitration to the President and Congress, reports the service performed. Senator Kirkwood and Representative Price, each from Iowa, to whose care the copies of the memorial were sent, in their responses expressed sympathy with the object desired, and promised to accompany the presentation with appropriate remarks, and have the papers referred to the proper committees.

14.—The correspondents report that the epistles of last year were revised and forwarded to the clerk for his signature, and he reports having signed and forwarded them in due season to their proper addresses.

15.—The committee on railroad fares reported that efforts were made to procure reduced rates, but without success.

16.—The minutes of last year were read, and the committees directed to report to a future session.

17.—The Representatives were directed to confer together at the rise of the session, and propose to the next a suitable Friend to serve as clerk, and one for an assistant.

18.—The meeting then adjourned, to meet at the usual hour, to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY MORNING,

The 17th of 9th Month, 1878, *near the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled.*

20.—Abel Mills, on behalf of the Representatives, reported that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Jonathan W. Plummer for clerk and Benjamin F. Nichols for assistant, who being separately considered and approved, were appointed to perform those services the ensuing year.

21.—A minute for our friends Ezekiel and Elizabeth P. Roberts was read at this time.

22.—The queries and answers thereto from the Quarterly Meetings were read, and the following summaries adopted as nearly representing our condition, as shown by the reports.

SUMMARIES.

First Answer.—Friends appear to be generally diligent in the attendance of meetings upon the First Day of the week, sleeping and other unbecoming behavior generally avoided, and the hour of meeting nearly observed. The usual deficiency in the attendance of mid-day meetings is noted in each report.

Second Ans.—We believe the usual degree of love is maintained among us, though in the language of one of the reports, an increase of *Divine Love* would be desirable, as becoming a Christian profession. Tale-bearing and detraction generally discouraged, and care taken to rightly end differences, when any become manifest.

Third Ans.—We believe most Friends feel a deep concern in the maintenance of our testimonies herein queried after, but deficiencies are acknowledged to exist, and greater care would often be beneficial.

Fourth Ans.—Our members appear to maintain faithfully the testimony regarding spirituous liquors, and to generally avoid attending places of unprofitable diversion, though deficiencies are recognized; moderation and temperance seem to be well maintained.

Fifth Ans.—We believe our members fulfill the requirements of this query, so far as cases appear among us needing aid.

Sixth Ans.—We appear from the reports to be generally clear of violating the principles herein queried after, though greater care in some instances, is called for.

Seventh Ans.—Friends appear generally careful on the points queried after, and in cases causing fear, care is extended.

EIGHTH ANS.—The requisitions of this query generally fulfilled, though perhaps not always so seasonably as might have been best.

NINTH ANS.—There appear to be no schools among us, such as are queried after.

TENTH ANS.—We believe they are.

23.—Prairie Grove sends the following information as to correspondents within its limits:

(See last leaf.)

24.—Men and women having met in joint session, the committee on revision of Discipline made the following report:

REPORT.

TO ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

DEAR FRIENDS:—The committee to which you intrusted the arduous and responsible work of revising the Book of Discipline, has been diligent in attention to the duty, holding twelve sessions of the general committee, six at West Liberty, Iowa, in 3d month last, and five at Clear Creek, within the last few days. In these, and through the Quarterly Meeting sub-committees and the general sub-committee, the subjects in our Discipline have been considered carefuly by section and clause through the entire book.

Coming together from all parts of society, and with great variety of views, the members of the committee, after much and free expression upon the different topics, have been enabled in harmony and unbroken fellowship to fully unite in presenting the following manuscript result of their labors for your judgment. If approved, we recommend the printing of seven hundred and fifty copies, the approximate cost of which will be one hundred and fifty dollars.

Trusting that the same spirit of fellowship, love and forbearance that has thus far been maintained may continue to characterize the further consideration of the subject, we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the committee,
at Clear Creek, Ill. MARY G. SMITH,
9th mo., 17th, 1878. JONA. W. PLUMMER.

25.—The Meeting having considered, and with slight alteration, approved the revision of Discipline to the end of the General Advices, then directed that the further consideration of the subject be deferred until the close of the Meeting's action upon the report of the Representative Committee.

26.—Then the Meeting adjourned, to meet to-morrow afternoon at 3 p.m., in joint session for the consideration of the reports of the committee on Indian Affairs and Representative Committee.

FOURTH DAY AFTERNOON,

The 18th of 9th Mo., 1878, *near the time adjourned to, Friends assembled in joint session.*

28.—The committee on Indian Affairs made the following report, accompanied by the papers referred to therein. It also verbally reports receiving from the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, the sum of $100, and the payment to the Treasurer of the General Committee of the seven Yearly Meetings of $80, for which it produces a receipt.

REPORT.

The committee on Indian concerns would report, that our executive committee during the last year has carefully attended to all matters connected with this people that has come before it, and we feel to recommend that we as a Yearly Meeting, should stand prepared to unite with other Yearly Meetings, to attend to every right opening to assist this deeply wronged race; our clerk is directed to furnish the Yearly Meeting with the proceedings of the convention of delegates of the seven Yearly Meetings, for its information.

On behalf of the committee.

S. B. WALTON, Clerk.

29.—The reports of the general committee on Indian Affairs, under date of 2d and 5th months last, were read,

and the action of the committee upon the subjects claiming its attention, was approved, especially in endeavoring to obtain for the Indians, titles to lands in severalty, where families are prepared to occupy them.

30.—Samuel B. Walton reports having received letters from Dillwyn Parrish and Cyrus Blackburn, stating that Genesee and Illinois Yearly Meetings were exempted by the action of the general committee from any assessment toward paying the salary of Barclay White, during the present year. Our representative upon the general committee is requested to obtain official information upon this point, and if the report is incorrect, to notify the committee that we are doubtful of the propriety of continuing beyond this year, the employment of Barclay White at the salary now paid.

31.—The Meeting feeling a deep interest in this labor, and being encouraged by the evidences of steady improvement toward civilization and self-support of the tribes under our care, re-appoints the present committee, with instructions to co-operate with the general committee so far as practicable. Also to draw upon the Meeting's Treasurer for whatever sum is necessary, together with what is left in their hands from last year, to pay our proper quota of the general committee's expenses this year.

32.—Having passed through the business pertaining to Indian affairs, the Meeting proceeded to the consideration of the minutes of the Representative Committee.

33.—The memorial of our deceased Friend, Ann Whitacre, referred to this meeting by the Representative Committee, was read, approved, and directed to the revising committee for its care and for publication with the extracts, and to the Recorder for record among the minutes of the Yearly Meeting.

34.—The memorial of our deceased friend, Abner Moore, was read, approved and directed to the revising committee for its care, and for publication with the extracts, and to the Recorder for record among the minutes of the Yearly Meeting.

35.—Having finished the reading of the minutes of the Representative Committee, which were approved, the

Meeting, under minutes of a former session, took up the consideration of the revised Discipline. After the reading of the minutes, it being late in the day, the further consideration of the subject was deferred until 5th day morning.

36.—The Meeting adjourned to the usual hour, on 5th day morning.

FIFTH DAY MORNING,

The 19th of 9th Month, 1878, *near the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled in joint session, for the further consideration of the revision of Discipline.*

38.—After careful consideration of each clause of the revision, as presented by the committee, except those portions which were transcribed without change from the old book of discipline, the Meeting in harmony and thorough fellowship, and very general unanimity of judgment, adopted it section by section, with slight alterations, and then adopted it as a whole, and directed it to the care of the revising committee for its care and publication.

39.—The clerk is directed as soon as printed copies of the revised Discipline can be had, to forward one to each of the clerks of our subordinate meetings, and to the clerks of the Representative Committee, for observance as the discipline of this body.

40.—Having passed through the consideration of this important subject, the meeting adjourned, to meet again in separate session at half past one o'clock this afternoon, for the transaction of the further business claiming attention.

FIFTH DAY AFTERNOON,

19th of 9th Month, 1878, *near the time adjourned to, Friends assembled in separate session.*

42.—The committee upon education made the following report, which is approved, and the committee continued, women Friends concurring. It is directed to obtain the information asked for, so far as practicable, and report of their care next year.

REPORT.

TO ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

DEAR FRIENDS: Your committee on Education has to report one school in Bureau county, Illinois, under the care of Sidney Averill, who, owing to advanced age and the pressure of other duties, has a prospect of closing his labors in this respect at an early date. He states that excellent inducements will be offered to a competent person to continue the school, in the way of the use of house and apparatus free of rent. As he reports the school as remunerative in the past, we endorse his efforts to procure a suitable teacher to succeed him in the care of the school.

The committee desires information regarding the condition and prospects of Miami Valley College, with reference to our educational needs, and recommends the subject to the meeting's consideration.

Also, that inquiry be made as to the feasibility of establishing a school within each Quarter for thorough education in high-school branches. In the absence of more schools under our care, we advise that members exert as strong an influence as practicable in our public schools, for the increase of their moral and educational efficiency.

Signed on behalf the committee. SIDNEY AVERILL,
MARY G. SMITH.

43.—The committee to settle with the treasurer, etc. made the following report which is satisfactory, and Amos B. Wilson is re-appointed as treasurer for the ensuing year.

REPORT.

The committee find upon examining the treasurer's account that he has received from

Blue River Quarter,	$165.00	
Prairie Grove Quarter,	135.00	
On hand of last year's fund,	131.85	—$431.85
And that he has paid as per vouchers,		
For use of Com. on Indian affairs,	$100.00	
For printing, Minutes, leaflets, etc.,	185.12	—$285.12
Leaving on hand,		$146.73

We recommend that the sum of $300 be raised for the Meeting's use the ensuing year, and that Amos B. Wilson be continued as treasurer.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

DANIEL PARMER.

44.—The clerk is directed to request the Quarterly Meetings to raise and forward to our treasurer their respective quotas of three hundred dollars in accordance with the ratio of last year.

45.—The treasurer is directed to pay Joshua L. Mills the sum of eight dollars and fifty cents as expense incurred in putting in a pump upon the Yearly Meeting grounds.

46.—The committee upon Isolated Friends and upon Literature, report that through its secretary, it has mailed copies of Minutes, leaflets, etc., to seventy-three Friends in as many isolated situations, besides to a number of persons not members, in the villages near our Yearly Meeting, who had become interested through attendance upon its sessions last year.

Total number of copies distributed, including leaflets used by a member of the committee and not included in the Yearly Meeting stock, was of Extracts, 137, and of Leaflets 1971, besides a number of copies of pamphlets issued by the Philadelphia Publishing Association.

The committee received from William C. White of New York, sixteen copies of Friends Journals, which were placed in the hands of the secretary for loaning to those desiring them, until further direction from the committee or Yearly Meeting.

The total cost of receiving and distributing extracts, etc., was	$2.62
Deducting amount received by secretary,	1.15
Leaving due him,	$ .47

In a number of cases very warm and acceptable responses were received from the persons to whom printed matter was sent, amply justifying the belief that this is a useful labor.

Members of the committee, under religious concern, or

in fulfillment of the duties given them under this appointment, have visited during the past year many localities in central Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, holding meetings where way opened for them, which were largely attended, and often seasons of eminent favor.

The solemnity during the gatherings, and the kindness and aid extended in passing from neighborhood to neighborhood, and in entertaining the laborers, gave evidence of the appreciation of the visits, and often to a very tendering degree.

Under an appreciation of this satisfactory, and we trust profitable labor, the meeting, women concurring, re-appointed the committee and added Elihu Durfee, Jesse Holmes, and Isaac Wierman. The committee was encouraged to like diligence the ensuing year, and is authorized to use the sum placed at its disposal by minute of 9th mo. 14th, 1876, to wit: $30.

47.—Attention being called to the accompanying notice from the Central Meeting of Friends, Chicago, the meeting approves of its purpose and effort, and directs the publication of the notice with the extracts in connection with this minute.

FRIENDS' LITERATURE.

Believing that in many neighborhoods of Friends, it is difficult to procure such literature as is desired, either of the publications of our society, or from other sources, and that a committee located in this city might be useful in obtaining such books or papers as should be generally circulated, and in giving information regarding such matters, we appoint James McDonald and others, who are to take the subject in care during the present year, and act as their best judgment dictates.

H. A. Plummer was appointed correspondent for the committee.

Editors of the Journal:—Referring to the above extract from the minutes of the Central Meeting of Friends, Chicago, under date of 7th mo. 10th, 1878, I would add that it is the purpose of the committee to offer its assistance to whoever desires it, within the limits of Illinois Yearly

Meeting of Friends, either in procuring books or papers, or information regarding any publication asked after. Having facilities for procuring most of these at reduced or club rates, we aim to furnish them to those asking, at cost to us, but including postage and other necessary expenses.

We desire to increase the circulation, within our limits of our society papers, and expect to be able to send each to individual subscribers at club rates.

As our labors are gratuitous, all letters asking for information should enclose postage for reply, and the writer's address, plainly written, giving post-office, county and State.

In ordering the society papers, or any publication, a postal money order (or currency, if writer chooses to risk it), covering cost and expenses, should be enclosed with the order, and if there should be any surplus it will be promptly returned.

Our purpose covers the full range of good literary, scientific or religious publications usually attainable, but we do not desire any order for books that can easily be procured from booksellers near the purchaser. Address

HANNAH A. PLUMMER,
No. 4 Oakwood Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

48.—The committee to prepare epistles to the other Yearly Meetings of this body, produced one for each, which, on being read and accepted, were directed to the revising committee for its care. The epistles are to be forwarded when revised, to the appropriate addresses in due season.

49.—The committee on exercises produced a minute which, being generally satisfactory, was referred to the revising committee for its care and for printing with the minutes.

50.—As correspondents, Morris A. Wilson and William M. Price were appointed to serve the ensuing year.

51.—The Clerk is directed to ask of the Monthly Meetings, information as to the state of their records of membership, and also records of minutes, with a view to ascertain the number of our members and the condition of our records in the several meetings.

52.—A proposition being laid before the Meeting to invite the consideration of the other Yearly Meetings upon the subject of holding a general conference once in five years or oftener, to co-operate in labor, and increase our influence upon the various questions involving our testimonies, the clerk was left at liberty to prepare a suitable address, setting forth the concern as laid before the Meeting, and forward the same to the several Yearly Meetings.

53.—Ezekiel Roberts, a minister, and his wife, Eliz. P. Roberts, an elder, have been in attendance with us during our several sessions, producing a minute of unity and concurrence from Short Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio, dated, 8th mo. 8, 1878, and endorsed by Short Creek Quarterly Meeting, under date of 8th mo. 17, 1878.

Their company and labor among us has been acceptable and salutary, and we desire that they may carry with them in their return, the crown of peace.

54.—Under a covering of solemnity and a precious sense of brotherhood, the meeting adjourned to the usual time next year.

55.—After the concluding minutes were read the shutters were opened and the meeting enjoyed the usual season of worship.

REPORT

OF GENERAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

At a convention of delegates from the seven Yearly Meetings of Friends having charge of the Indians in the Northern Superintendency, held at the Metropolitan Hotel, Washington City, second month, 6th, 1878, the following delegates answered to their names:

Philadelphia—Jonn Saunders, Chalkley Albertson, and Dillwyn Parrish.

New York—Stephen R. Hicks.

Baltimore—B. Rush Roberts, Richard T. Bentley, and Samuel M. Janney.

Ohio—Samuel Townsend.

Indiana—Wm. Parry.

The minutes of the last stated meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed to confer with Barclay White, reported they had an interview with him, and that he expressed a willingness to accept the position of Friends' Special Agent, on the same terms as heretofore; and they also report that in accordance with the direction of the delegates they asked his aid in preparing a bill or bills for presentation to Congress, which shall remedy some of the difficulties in the way of the civilization and advancement of the Indians; and at the request of the Central Executive Committee he met some of their number in Washington, in conference on this subject.

The committee appointed to publish portions of Barclay White's report, and the proceedings of the last convention of delegates held at Baltimore, reported that they had 350 of the former and 300 copies of the latter published and distributed, at a cost of $59.20.

The clerk reported that he had informed the clerks of the committees representing the seven Yearly Meetings, of the willingness of Barclay White to accept the position of Special Agent another year, and has received information that they are unanimous in desiring his continuance, provided Friends continue their care of the several tribes of Indians.

The secretary of the Central Executive Committee produced a bill which had been prepared for the consideration of the delegates, with several letters containing suggestions for its improvement. As it required some modification, Samuel M. Janney, B. Rush Roberts, Stephen R. Hicks, and Chalkley Albertson were appointed to examine its provisions and the suggestions offered, and produce it at our next meeting.

A portion of the evening was occupied in considering the *status* of Friends as regards their connection with Government, and it was concluded that the delegates should call on the Commissioner of Indian affairs and on the Secretary of the Interior, and enquire as to the probability of our agents being confirmed by the Senate. Also, with regard to the sale of the Otoe lands, and the

intrusion of white settlers on their reservation, and other matters connected with the welfare of the Indians.

A communication, signed by the clerks of Illinois Yearly Meeting and addressed to the delegates, was read, accompanied by a letter from J. G. Vore (a citizen of the Cherokee Nation), asking the aid of Friends in securing to the Cherokees the rights solemnly guaranteed by the Government.

Information was received that they were represented at the seat of government by intelligent and influential citizens of their nation; and as we are surrounded with difficulties in that part of the work in which we are engaged, way did not open to take any official action in the case, of which conclusion the secretary is directed to inform the clerks of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Then adjourned until to-morrow morning.

FIFTH DAY MORNING.

The delegates met, with the addition of Cryus Blackburn, delegate of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

The committee appointed yesterday to revise the bill for the civilization and improvement of the Indians, produced a copy, which was considered and approved by the delegates, and by them submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, who expressed himself as approving its general provisions, and B Rush Roberts and Richard T. Bentley were appointed to present it to Congress through the proper channel.

In our interview with the Secretary we ascertained that Samuel S. Ely, our nominee for the Otoe Agency, had been withdrawn by the Secretary, in consequence of the probable rejection of his confirmation as our Agent in Nebraska, and that he had been nominated to the Senate for the Pawnee Agency in the Indian Territory, without any consultation with the delegates or committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the services rendered by our society, and desired its continuance.

The afternoon and evening were occupied in obtaining

information from official sources as to the present aspect and probable future of the Indian question, particularly as regards the status of the Society of Friends, and also in discussing the question of our continuance in the position we now occupy.

When invited by President Grant to take charge of the Indians in the Northern Superintendency, it was agreed that Friends should nominate their own members as Superintendent and Agents for the tribes under our care, and while this state of things continued we were able to work harmoniously with the Government as we believe for the advancement and civilization of the Indians.

By Act of Congress in 1876 the office of Superintendent was abolished, and since that time most of the Agents we have nominated have not been confirmed by the Senate, on which account much difficulty and embarrassment have ensued to the Agents, to the Indians, and to ourselves. This, with other circumstances which have come to our knowledge, has induced the delegates to consider whether the time is not approaching when it will be necessary to sever our connection with the Government in the nomination of Agents, that so we may be relieved from the responsibility which we assumed under the former administration.

The Secretary was directed to furnish a copy of these proceedings to the committees of our seven Yearly Meetings, and request them to consider the important question, and inform us of their judgment either by delegates or otherwise at the time of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, in fifth month next.

The condition of the Pawnee Agency claimed the attention of the delegates, and in consideration of the difficulties existing there, they came to the conclusion that a communication should be addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, asking that Friends may be released from the responsibility of nominating Agents for that Agency, and offering to continue our service in the advancement and civilization of the Pawnees, if an opportunity is afforded and satisfactory arrangements can be made.

Our Secretary was requested to submit this to the Bal-

timore Committee on the Indian concern for their consideration and action.

It is concluded to defer further action on Barclay White's appointment as Special Agent until our next meeting in Fifth month next.

Then adjourned until Third day evening of the week of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, at half-past seven o'clock, at Race Street Meeting-house.

DILLWYN PARRISH, *Secretary*.

AT A CONVENTION OF DELEGATES FROM THE SEVEN YEARLY MEETINGS OF FRIENDS,

Having charge of the Indians in the Northern Superintendency, held pursuant to adjournment at Race Street Meeting-house, Philadelphia, 5th mo. 14, 1878.

The following delegates from the several yearly meetings answered to their names:

Philadelphia—Amos I. Peaslee, Deborah F. Wharton, John Saunders, Joseph C. Turnpenny, Samuel Jeanes, Mary Jeanes, Jacob M. Ellis, Chalkley Albertson, Mary S. Lippincott, Margaretta Walton, Daniel Foulke, Sarah Hoopes, Peirce Hoopes, William Wade Griscom, Barclay White, and Dillwyn Parrish.

New York—Thomas Foulke, Stephen R. Hicks.

Baltimore—Samuel M. Janney, B. Rush Roberts, Richard T. Bently, Levi K. Brown.

Ohio—Samuel Townsend.

Indiana—William Parry, Benjamin Stratton.

Genesee—Jonathan D. Noxon.

Illinois—Cyrus Blackburn.

The minutes of the last convention held in Washington were read and approved.

B. Rush Roberts on behalf of the committee reported that the bill approved by the delegates in relation to the improvement and civilization of the Indians had been presented to Congress.

The Secretary reported he had furnished a copy of the minute repecting the Pawnees to the committee of Baltimore yearly meeting, and as no action has been had in relation thereto, it is continued under the care of the

committee, who are expected to report at our next meeting.

Letters from delegates of Ohio and Illinois were read in reference to the continuance of Friends in the Indian service, and verbal reports were received from delegates of the other Yearly Meetings now in attendance. After a full consideration and discussion of the subject, it was the united conclusion that Friends are not prepared at present to abandon their care of the Indians and we were encouraged to continue in the work.

A letter was received from Joseph Willets on behalf of the delegates of New York Yearly Meeting respecting a bill before Congress affecting the rights of the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, and asking the delegates to prepare a remonstrance to Congress against its passage. The subject was referred to Samuel M. Janney, Barclay White, Stephen R. Hicks, Thomas Foulke, and B. Rush Roberts to report to our next meeting.

The subject of employing Barclay White as Friends' special agent referred from the minutes of last meeting was introduced, and it was the unanimous judgment of the committee that his sevices would be required to visit and supervise the general agencies under our care, and he being now present agreed to accept the service on the same terms as heretofore.

FIFTH DAY MORNING.

The delegates again met, with the addition of John Searing, of Genesee Yearly Meeting.

Samuel M. Janney reported on behalf of the committee appointed yesterday that they had examined the bill for the relief of the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, but a way did not open to prepare a remonstrance. The bill was referred to the same committee for further examination, and they are requested to report their action to the Indian committee of New York Yearly Meeting, with power to act in conjunction with them. Barclay White having been appointed special agent of Friends, it was concluded to appoint a committee to confer on the subject, and if way opens, to proceed

to Washington and ask from the department his recognition as such with authority to fulfill all the duties connected with his mission. The following Friends were appointed: Stephen R. Hicks, Thomas Foulke, B. Rush Roberts, John Saunders, Richard T. Bently, and William Parry.

The following communication from the joint committee on Indian affairs from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was referred to the committee appointed to confer with our special agent:

TO THE CONVENTION OF DELEGATES OF THE SEVEN YEARLY MEETINGS:

At a meeting of the joint committee on Indian affairs, held 5th mo. 16th, 1878. A bill "To allot to Indians a homestead, etc.," introduced recently into Congress as an amendment to one for the same purpose presented 2nd mo. 11th, 1878, and objection being made to the omission to have the consent of the Indians to the sale of portions of their lands not homesteaded, as provided for, as in the first, the subject was referred to the convention of delegates.

They were also requested to take into consideration the propriety of having the lands which may be allotted to them in severalty, held in trust instead of in the mode proposed by the bill, as being for their greater protection.

Extracted from the minutes.

(Signed) JACOB M. ELLIS, Clerk.

To examine and audit the account of B. Rush Roberts, Treasurer of the Central Executive Committee, and of Dillwyn Parrish, Treasurer of the delegates, Chalkley Albertson and John Saunders were appointed.

The Treasurer of the delegates was authorized to draw upon the committees of the several Yearly Meetings for the expenses of the coming year, a sum not exceeding twenty-four hundred dollars ($2,400).

Then adjourned till 2nd day evening, 10th mo., 28, 1878, at 7:30 o'clock, at Lombard Street Meeting-house, Baltimore, unless called together earlier by the Secretary.

From the minutes. DILLWYN PARRISH,
Secretary and Treasurer of Delegates.

MINUTES OF EXERCISES.

In our annual gathering this year from the different points of our vineyard, there has been felt a refining and purifying influence lifting us above mere traditional feeling, and preparing us to sit together in that peace and fellowship that is the crowning blessing of rightly-gathered assemblies.

During our meetings for worship on First day, a spirit of prayer and exhortation thereto seemed to solemnize us and prepare the way for the exposition of the doctrines of Christ by one of our ministers, in which it was declared that obedience to the will of God was the highest attainment of the human mind, and when rendered according to the best light the mind was capable of receiving, was in every age, and among every people, acceptable to God. Another speaker called our attention to the indispensable necessity for regeneration from a state of nature to a state of grace, to become a child of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. The company and labor of a ministering friend and his companion, from another Yearly Meeting, has been acceptable and helpful, especially as we were passing through a general Revision of Discipline.

In adopting a revision of the rules of order and statement of our testimonies, efforts have been made to combine the truly progressive with the rightly conservative; and while not ready to respond to the wish of many upon the subject of intoxicating liquors, in requiring total abstinence from it and all its preparations, in medicines as well as otherwise, we feel that the new is an advance beyond the old. Much approval was expressed with the advice and query regarding the use of tobacco, its total disuse being evidently desired by nearly all.

The meeting for worship on Fourth day was felt to be a truly refreshing season, opening with earnest supplication, followed by a showing of the beauty of the figure of the law dispensation as a schoolmaster, bringing its followers to Christ, the eternal substance. Several speakers added their testimony. A sweetly refreshing influence was spread over the meeting by the reading of the epistles from other Yearly Meetings.

The manifestation of interest by the younger part of the company gave an assurance that they were being prepared by the Father's hand to uphold the testimonies that are so important for the advancement of society in moral and religious life.

Much excellent advice was called forth by the reading of the answers to the queries, showing a deep desire for greater dedication of heart and support of our testimonies.

The interest felt in the cause of peace led to the formation of a peace society during the week of meeting, though not under its care nor confined to its members. The committee on Indian affairs made a favorable report of the progress of the tribe partly under our care, and hopes were freely expressed that the labors in this direction might be maintained, and Friends willingly give of their means, when profitably spent for the advancement of this race. The Representative Committee presented memorials of two deceased friends, one having occupied the station of Minister, and the other that of an Elder, which, being approved, were referred to the revising committee for care and publication with the extracts.

The First Day School Association held two sessions, and is felt to be one of the instrumentalities in stirring up the youthful mind and directing them in right channels, as well as in assisting others of riper years in attaining a clearer mental understanding of Scriptural truths. Living desires were felt that they should be conducted in harmony with the principles of our Society and to the promotion of truth.

Our meeting has passed in unusual harmony and condescension, through a general revision of the Discipline; and we have to thankfully acknowledge the presence of the Master in the strengthening of our drooping spirits, and cementing of the bonds of fellowship, and in the influence of this feeling, the meeting closed its final session.

A MEMORIAL OF BENJAMINVILLE MONTHLY MEETING, CONCERNING OUR DECEASED FRIEND, ABNER MOORE.

While a written memorial cannot benefit the deceased, it may be an incentive to the living, prompting to an imitation of the strong devotedness to heartfelt duty which characterized the faithful departed. As we believe the subject of this tribute to have adhered closely to what he thought was required of him as a member of the Society of Friends, and as a husband and father, we desire, in presenting this memorial to encourage others to a like conformity to manifest duty, which will ever lead to rest and peace here, and a well-grounded assurance of bliss in the life to come.

Abner Moore was born in Green county, New York, the 30th of 10th mo., 1810, his parents being James and Sybel Moore, both members of our Society. While quite young, he appeared in the ministry. About the year 1833, he was united in marriage with Ann Bennett, a member of Albany monthly meeting, New York, and removed within the limits of that meeting to reside.

After the decease of his first wife, he married again, his second wife being Eliza Bedell, of Coxsackie, N. Y., with whom he removed near Rochester, N. Y., residing there eight years, during which time his wife died. During the year 1856, he again married, this time with Pauline Crawford, of Connaughtsville, Penn., and in the year 1858 removed to Illinois, and settled in the neighborhood of Benjaminville, McLean Co., where he resided during the remainder of his life. On the 31st of 7 mo., 1870, death again broke the family circle, and his wife passed from works to rewards, leaving him again alone.

About the year 1859, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends recognized his gift in the ministry, wherein he labored to the best of his ability up to the time of his death.

During his last illness, commencing in 7th mo., 1877, he often spoke of the assurance he had that it was to be his last. After being confined at home for some time, he partially recovered, so as to be able again to attend meetings and fulfill his desire to visit a daughter residing in

Chicago, although his appearance indicated great weakness and slow decline. While in Chicago his disease assumed a worse form, from which he rallied so far as to be able to return home about the middle of the 12th mo. His vitality seemed so far exhausted that medical aid after this, seemed unavailing, as he gradually declined until the 7th of 2d mo., 1878, when he fell asleep to wake no more in this life. As death draws the veil before the material body, the memory alone is left us, and as we recall his faithful attendance upon meetings, not allowing his temporal affairs to interfere with this felt duty, we realize the loss of a faithful member and the need of imitating his example in this important respect, and of preparing ourselves to worthily fill the vacant places that our elder friends are leaving, as one and another passes away to the life beyond.

Abner Moore, the subject of this memorial, departed this life, as before stated, the 7th of 2d mo., 1878, at the residence of his son-in-law, Harvey Moore, and his remains were interred in Friends' burial ground, at Benjaminville, the following day, a large and solemn meeting being held on the occasion.

A MEMORIAL OF WAPSINONOC MONTHLY MEETING CONCERNING OUR DECEASED FRIEND,

ANN WHITACRE.

It is often a pleasure to record the virtues and goodness of dear friends who have passed from works to rewards, and left behind them the sweet savor of duties well performed, that we, in remembrance thereof, may endeavor to follow them as they followed Christ. Our dear friend, Ann Whitacre, was the daughter of Abraham and Ruth Cook, who lived near Waynesville, Warren Co., Ohio, where Ann was born on the 14th of 8th mo., 1813. On the 1st of 5 mo., 1844, she was united in marriage with Aquilla Whitacre. They reared a family of children, to whom she was much attached.

After a quiet, peaceful life of near thirty-two years, she was left a widow and one of the executors of his estate by his appointment, and while she did not take a very

active part in the business, she always wanted strict justice done, showing no favors to one more than to another, thinking right wronged no one. She was a regular attender of all our meetings before and after her husband's death, and often encouraged her family and others to this duty. As a member of our religious society she was useful and of a meek, quiet deportment, more anxious to stand in the shadow of the Rock, with her mantle drawn around her, to await the coming of the still small voice that will come to all who truly seek, than to be with the whirlwind and commotion, thus setting an example worthy of imitation.

She filled the station of an Elder to the satisfaction of Friends for many years, and until her decease, performing its responsible duties with great firmness, discretion and gentleness. The second day of her sickness, while still able to be about the house, she remarked to one of her sisters that she "felt more lonely to-day than since father died," (an appellation she frequently applied to her husband), it seems as if I was going to meet him soon." Her sickness was borne with Christian fortitude, and on the 4th of 8th mo., 1877 she passed away quietly, at her residence near Downey, Johnson county, Iowa, after an illness of seven days, in the 65th year of her age, and leaving her friends and relatives a well grounded hope that she had entered the mansions of everlasting rest. On the 6th of the 8th mo. her remains were followed by a large concourse of friends to their last resting place in Friends' burial grounds at Highland.

Thus as it pleased Him who gave, to take from us this our dearly beloved sister, leaving a void among the workers which can only be filled by the faithfulness of those remaining, may we therefore be willing to draw near the preparing power.

EPISTLES RECEIVED.

From a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in New York, by adjournments, from the 27th of 5th Month, 1878, to the 30th of the same inclusive:

TO THE NEXT ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

DEAR BRETHREN: It is with renewed thankfulness to the Father of all good, that, in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we are permitted again to acknowledge your words of warm sympathy, in the travails of our common burdens, and in the hopes of an abiding faith.

Our meetings began under an humble recognition of the Great Master, as the moving spirit and true guide of our assembly. The sessions have continued under a feeling sense of this dependence. Opinions at variance have been presented with a guarded care that nothing of the creature's will might oppose the workings of the "Light" of the eternal life.

Love and charity have appeared to be the tempering restraints over a generally expressed desire that our testimonies might ever be living instruments for advancing our spiritual growth; that our professions might be as a consuming fire of all that is unclean in our own household, and that thus purified, we might be strengthened to become humble instruments in the Father's hands, to spread abroad our convictions, and to do His bidding in all things.

We would that we might grow into such submission to the Supreme will, that with one voice, our protest may go forth against the tendencies of this age of doubt, and of trust in human reason. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding," is a scripture injunction, worthy of all acceptation.

The state of the Society as evinced by the answers to the queries, called forth expressions of concern for the defects existing among us, as well as gratitude for the

many mercies afforded, and for the signs of encouragement to persevere to the end.

The continued small attendance at mid-week meetings brought the admonition, that in the maintenance of our meetings for worship is to be found one of the wellsprings of preserving our faith.

Abstinence from all things that may weaken the bodily powers, as well as corrupt the soul, was urged with feeling power, and the desire was earnestly expressed that our efforts might be sent forth in sympathy and help to the victims of intoxicating beverages and unnecessary narcotic stimulants.

The importance of holding to our faith in a free Gospel Ministry was earnestly adverted to as a cardinal principle, and we were advised, that while to assist in spreading the truth is lawful, we are ever to remember that the Spirit cometh of God.

To extend and strengthen our faith and influence, it appears the first duty to renew our vigilance in training the minds of our children. We were exhorted that as the commandment "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" is the first and greatest among the commandments, so the love of God is the only sure foundation of the Christian character. "And this is love," writes the beloved Apostle, "that we walk after His commandments." It was felt that there was no time in which to instil this vivifying love so safely, as the youth-time, full of tender susceptibilities.

The presence of many Friends from other Yearly Meetings has been cheering, and a source of gratitude. Their words of counsel and encouragement have been refreshing to us.

In the report of our Indian committee although much evidence has been furnished of a discouraging nature, toward the continuance of this benevolent work, yet the results as shown in the reports of our agents, give evidence that our work has proved useful to that greatly wronged people, and if nothing further opens for us, our reward is, we have done what our hands have found to do. Our committee is continued to embrace such oppor-

tunities as may open, for further usefulness to these, our red brethren.

And finally, brethren, in the desire that in united faith we may continue to look unceasingly to the Divine Master, as the power to quicken and lead us in the way of a true spiritual life, and with prayers that your labors with ours, may be blessed, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting aforesaid,

NATHANIEL S. MERRITT, *Clerk.*

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Philadelphia, by adjournments from the 13th day of 5th Month to the 17th of the same, inclusive, 1878.

TO ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—We have been permitted to come together to wait upon the Most High; to consider the condition of our several branches, to know of their travail and trial, their increase or lack of diligence during the past year, and to extend such help and counsel to our members as may be adapted to their needs.

In these exercises we are glad to acknowledge greater faith and patience in co-working for the promotion of the blessed principle of Truth as professed by our Society.

While entire uniformity of opinion does not prevail, (and perhaps should not be desired) yet oneness in endeavoring to promote Righteousness among the inhabitants of our land has been manifest as the abiding object of all.

The feeling of gratitude to the Great Preserver has been increased by the Epistles received from our corresponding Yearly Meetings which reflect the sentiment that though we be many brethren, we acknowledge one Head and Master, under whose direction we are severally concerned to work out the labor assigned us.

Although our hearts have been bowed by a sense of our deficiencies in several particulars, and more especially in the attendance of our Religious meetings when

held near the middle of the week, we are cheered by the evidence that we are a united people, standing before the nations of the earth an exponent of that advanced Christian civilization in which practical righteousness is regarded as paramount to fixed forms of faith, and where LOVE is esteemed to be the fulfilling of the law.

The presence at this time of several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, some of them at an advanced age, has been comforting to us.

We realize the void made, in the removal by death of some who were long laborers in this part of the heritage, and have also been comforted by the evidence afforded, that the mantle which has fallen from these, has been taken up by those younger in life, giving hope that a succession of faithful standard bearers will be raised up in the Church.

A concern has been manifest in this meeting that our children may be trained up in that simplicity and plainness of manner and living which accords with the profession of being the disciples and followers of the lowly Jesus, and that an increased care may be exercised to preserve them from the corrupting influence of improper literature and impure associations.

While our members appear to be generally clear of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages, discourage their unnecessary use, and are careful in their administration as medicine, a lively exercise was apparent upon this important subject, and earnest appeals were made that we might labor to clear ourselves from all participation in the evils of intemperance.

Our Christian testimony against War, Oaths, Priestcraft, Oppression, and other subjects, were feelingly brought home to our minds by expressions among us from older and younger members.

A desire prevailed in this meeting that in this time of commercial difficulty our members may be cautious how they conduct business transactions, and endeavor to observe the limitations of truth therein. Parents were advised to be prudent in encouraging their children in these respects, and all were advised to simplicity of living, lest by indulging in extravagance they lay a tempta-

tion before others to engage in hazardous enterprises, and in business which they may not be able to control.

The guarded education of our youth continues to engage our care, and our Committee on Schools was encouraged in its labors, having at this time made a satisfactory report.

Our Indian Committee made a satisfactory report of its proceedings the past year, and was continued and encouraged in the good work.

Our meeting has been large, and we gratefully acknowledge through all our sessions the presence of the Great Head of the Church, harmonizing our labors and uniting us together.

With the salutation of love we are your brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting aforesaid.

BENJAMIN G. FOULKE, *Clerk.*

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Men Friends, held on Lombard street in Baltimore, by adjournments from 29th of 10th Month to 1st of 11th Month, 1877.

TO THE NEXT ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF MEN FRIENDS, TO BE HELD NEAR MT. PALATINE, PUTNAM CO., ILL.

DEAR FRIENDS: On reading your acceptable Epistle, in connection with those from other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, our minds were refreshed and tendered in gratitude to the Infinite Father that, through the guidance of His unerring Spirit, we still continue to be *one* people, dwelling in the simplicity of His love, and laboring harmoniously to advance His blessed kingdom on the earth.

During the several sittings of this our annual assembly, we have been brought to feel that the Good Master has been with us, and has eminently preserved us in that unity of the spirit which is *ever* the bond of peace. Abiding thus under His blessed canopy, we realize that all the power is of God; and that He who of old spake to the troubled waves, "Peace; be still," will, as we are obedient, qualify us to live in harmony and peace.

Our testimony to a pure spiritual worship, still remains to be precious; and earnest desires were expressed that we might live *so near* the Divine Spirit as to be eminently qualified to hold all our meetings in the power of God. And as this becomes more and more our condition, the most fruitful cause of non-attendance will be removed, and our religious meetings will not only be better attended by our own membership, but seeking minds, not of our fold, will be drawn to our assemblies as in the primitive days of the Society.

The true ground of the gospel ministry is Love—love to our heavenly Father,—manifested by obedience to impressions made upon our minds; love to man flowing out from the fulness of the heart, with earnest desires for his highest good. This gospel will ever gather to the fold; it leaves the ninety and nine safe in the Father's enclosure, and goeth into the mountains to seek the one that is lost. Being thus grounded on the immovable Rock Christ Jesus, green and fruitful branches of the living vine, we will continue to be a working people; love and unity will abide in our habitations; tale-bearing, detraction and jealousy will melt away in the warming sunbeams of an enlarged charity; and our testimonies in regard to war, oppression, intemperance and priestcraft will not degenerate into mere *ideals* of the good, but will become a mighty power in the earth, going forth to the healing of the nations

A desire expressed in our midst, that we should not only attend our meetings because it is a religious duty, but that they might be a fruitful source of the highest and purest enjoyment; also, a deep feeling of solicitude, that a more faithful watch may be kept over the dawnings of accountability in the tender minds of the young; that parents may be the faithful Elis unto these little Samuels; that while we are in attendance at our religious gatherings, these innocent lambs of God may early learn to know the Shepherd's voice, and follow Him into the green pastures, instead of being left at home exposed to doubtful influences; we should feel the importance of placing them in the way of good, where, under the moulding hand

of Heavenly influences, their tender minds may be opened to the incomings of Divine Grace.

Thus it is believed that by a more guarded care being extended over the youth, in a way adapted to their state and condition, we may bring peace to our declining years, enlarge the borders of our Zion, and extend the Redeemer's kingdom.

The meeting was deeply impressed with the report of our Committee on Indian Concerns. The many wrongs to which the Indians have been subjected, and the difficulties that have been placed in the way of ameliorating their condition, have aroused our sympathies anew, and encouraged us to persevere in our efforts to benefit this much injured people.

Grateful for many blessings conferred upon us during the several sittings of the Yearly Meeting, through which we have been enabled to transact the business that came before us, in much harmony and brotherly condescension, we feel, in conclusion, to commend you, with ourselves, to the kindly protection of the Good Father, and the word of His Grace, which is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among the redeemed.

With a salutation of love, we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting, by

DARLINGTON HOOPES, *Clerk.*

From Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Yarmouth, Ontario, by adjournment from the 10th of the 6th Month, to the 13th of the same, inclusive, 1878.

TO THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

DEAR FRIENDS: It is with hearts devoutly thankful to the Author of All Good that we again in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, are permitted to acknowledge the acceptance of your welcome epistle, conveying to our minds the assurance of your travail and sympathy in bearing the burdens that are ever in the pathway of the seekers after that abiding faith, which if dwelt in, will remove mountains, and open the way to progress in religious understanding.

Our meeting opened under a full sense of our own inability to accomplish any good thing by any other means than that of a humble resignation to the Great I Am, as the moving spirit and guide to our every act of true devotion; and while under a deep sense of this dependence our several sessions have continued, enabling us to transact the business presented with a marked degree of *love* and *condescension*.

In considering the state of society the meeting was deeply exercised, and much counsel and encouragement was given. The deficiencies portrayed in the answers to the queries called forth earnest expressions of concern for the defects noted, and forcible suggestions for their removal.

The importance of a regular attendance of all our religious meetings was alluded to with much feeling, that it was a necessity for us to present ourselves a *living sacrifice* as our most reasonable service, that to meet together as a mere formality was not worship, only an act of preparation therefor, and we were shown that by mingling together for the purpose of divine worship, we were not only benefitted ourselves, but strengthened those with whom we mingled, like the gathering of coals together, causing a warmth to spring up which pervades the whole assembly, and *love* pure and undefiled flows from heart to heart, in which condition only are we prepared to render acceptable worship to the Fountain of All Good.

We were reminded of the trying circumstances under which our ancestors in the early history of this Society worshiped, and the lively interest taken by the young as well as the old in the attendance of meetings under difficulties apparently insurmountable, and their condition contrasted with ours, where toleration and freedom of religious opinions make it our privilege to worship in that simplicity peculiar to this Society. We were exhorted to seek for that strength which will beget in us a more lively interest in endeavoring to restore our meetings to their primitive condition, and were admonished to faithfulness in the early training of the tender lambs committed to our care, and were shown that as we are concerned to im-

plant in their tender minds the necessity of a regular attendance of all our religious meetings, not only would we have the satisfaction of seeing them walking in the footsteps of their fathers, as they are our only hope for the future of our Society, and unless they are gathered it must dwindle and cease.

We were also feelingly reminded of the necessity of being duly qualified ourselves before admonishing those who have gone astray, that we wait long for the *Prodigal* to return, as our Heavenly Father waited long for us while we were living in open rebellion, that His *love* for us, and our restoration should not be forgotten, but we should see that our spirits are baptised aright, that we may not go fault-finding, but clothed with and bearing a mantle of love for the restoration of the erring.

The Committee on Indian Concerns report progress in the cause of this greatly and long-abused people. Although a heavy cloud seems to be looming in the distance, we still hope the darkness is only indicative of the dawn of a brighter era, and we still feel to assist even though adversity overtake them.

A lively exercise was begotten concerning the use of intoxicating liquors, and we were exhorted to continue faithful in spreading our testimonies to the world against this great evil.

A pleasing feature of our present gathering is the presence and orderly deportment of so many of our young members, and their willingness to participate in the labors and exercises that have come before us, gives the assurance that a succession of standard-bearers will be perpetuated.

Our meeting as to numbers is fully as large as usual, though not visited by Ministering Friends from other Yearly Meetings; but we have the acceptable company of a few others who have been silent travelers with us in our deliberations, evincing the truth of the expression that as "Iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man, his friend."

We have felt that the Great Head of the Church has been with us, that the Master's table has been bountifully spread, and with a good degree of that *love* that knows

no bounds short of the whole human family, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

JONATHAN D. NOXON, *Clerk.*

The epistle from Ohio was mislaid and not found in time to print with extracts.

From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Richmond, Ind., by adjournments from the 1st of 10th mo. to the 4th of the same, inclusive, 1877.

TO THE NEXT YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, TO BE HELD AT MOUNT PALATINE, PUTNAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

DEAR FRIENDS: Through the condescending goodness of our Heavenly Father, we have again been permitted to mingle together in this our annual reunion, in order that our spirits may be refreshed together by the descendings of the Father's love to us, his dependent children, in this part of the heritage.

And surely, we have cause to be thankful for this and other unmerited blessings from His bountiful hand. The declaration that, "As iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man his friend," has been fully verified to us, and we have strengthened together by the indwelling of the spirit of our God.

By the reading of your acceptable epistle, we were made to rejoice that you, too, had received renewed evidence that we, with you, are not a forgotten people, but that if we supplicate Him to visit and lead us, putting our faith and confidence in Him, He will not forsake us, but will fill our hearts with His love, and we will love Him, and because we love Him, we will love the brethren, the badge of true discipleship. By an inspection into the state of society, as exhibited by the answers to the queries, we find that weaknesses are still existing amongst us, which awakened in the meeting a lively exercise that we might more and more turn our hearts unto Him, and implore His protecting care over

us, and give us of that faith that will overcome the world, and all the temptations and allurements that beset us in our pilgrimage through life.

During the transactions of the business that has come before us, much brotherly love and condescension has appeared, showing to our comprehension that the Master of all rightly gathered assemblies has had a place among us.

The report of the Indian committee was read to satisfaction, and the committee encouraged to extend such further care in their behalf as might seem right, to advance the best interest of this much wronged people.

We have had the company of several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose counsel and gospel labors have been truly edifying and encouraging to us.

With salutations of love, we remain your friends.

Signed, on behalf of the meeting,

WILLIAM PARRY, Clerk.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,

Held at Clear Creek, near Mount Palatine, Putnam County, Illinois, by adjournments from the 16th of 9th mo. to the 19th of the same, inclusive, 1878.

Minutes of Women's Division.

By reports from the Quarterly Meetings we learn the following named Friends were appointed representatives to this, viz.: Ann Eliza Harrison, Mary Hollingsworth, Ann Heacock, Susannah Blackburn, Ruth Dugdale, Ann Hogue, Miranda Stanton, Mary L. Pickering, and Lydia Ann Thomas, from Prairie Grove; and Miriam McKnight, Elizabeth S. Brooks, Mary Ann Allen, Lydia K. Penrose, Sarah Ann Coale, Hannah S. Mills, Rosanna Wilson, and Margaret Merritt, from Blue River, who, on being called, are all present.

Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond were read in this Meeting, greatly to our strength and encouragement. To essay replies thereto, we appoint Hannah A. Plummer, Lydia K. Penrose, Ann Eliza Meade, Mary G. Smith, Lydia E. Elliott, Ruth Dugdale, Ruth A. Dixon, Elmina Averell, Anna Dorland, Mary T. Brooks, Mary A. Swaynie, Anna Russell, Martha A. John, and Ann Eliza Harrison, who are to produce them to a future sitting.

We are informed by reports from Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting, that Genoa Monthly Meeting has changed the time of holding that Meeting to 4 o'clock p. m., from the 1st of the 5th mo. to the 1st of the 11th mo.; the balance of the year at 2 o'clock p. m. First day meeting to be continued the same.

To settle with the treasurer, ascertain the amount needed for the ensuing year, and also to propose the

name of a Friend to serve in that capacity, we appoint Mary E. Wood and Ann Eliza Mead, who are to report to a future sitting.

By reports from the Quarterly Meetings, it appears that Ann Eliza Harrison, Ruth Dugdale, and Lydia Ann Thomas, from Prairie Grove, Elizabeth S. Brooks, Margaret M. Merritt, and Hannah S. Mills, from Blue River, were appointed members of the Representative Committee as the Quarterly Meeting's quotas, in addition to the Yearly Meeting's appointment of Ann Hogue, Ann Eliza Meade, Mary Hollingsworth, Susannah Blackburn, Miranda Stanton, Lydia E. Elliot, Mary Pickering, Ann Heacock, Susannah Hill, Anna B. Ross, from Prairie Grove, and Anna Wilson, Miriam McKnight, Martha A. John, Mary Ann Allen, Sarah Ann Coale, Mary E. Wood, Emeline Underhill, Mary Griffith, Elmina Averill, Elizabeth H. Coale, and Lydia K. Penrose, from Blue River, who are to serve the ensuing three years.

The recorder of the minutes of last Yearly Meeting reports the service performed, and she is continued, to report next year.

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the rise of this sitting, and propose the names of Friends to serve as clerks the present year.

Our friend, Sarah A. Koon, is acceptably with us at this time, producing a minute of unity from Scipio Monthly Meeting, New York, dated 8th mo. 15th, 1878, signed by the clerks thereof. We now adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at the same time men Friends do.

The 3d of the week and 11th of the Month, near the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled.

Mary Hollingsworth on behalf of the Representatives, proposed the name of Caroline Lukens for clerk, and Elizabeth H. Coale for assistant, who being separately considered, were united with and appointed to serve the Meeting the present year.

Ezekiel Roberts, a minister, and Elizabeth, his wife, an elder and companion, are acecptably in attendance with us, producing a minute of concurrence from Short

Creek Monthly Meeting, held at Short Creek, Jefferson county, Ohio, 8th mo., 8th, 1868, endorsed by Short Creek Quarterly Meeting, at the same place, 8th mo., 17th, 1878, and signed by their respective clerks.

The state of society as brought before us by the reading and answering of the queries has called forth much excellent counsel and caution upon the various subjects mentioned, and we hope they may be treasured up for our strength. The following summaries are adopted:

SUMMARIES.

First Answer.—Many friends are diligent in the attendance of meeting, but more care would be desirable in regard to mid-week meetings, and those for discipline; endeavors are used to avoid unbecoming behavior; the hour for meeting not so closely observed by some Friends as would be desirable.

Second Ans.—Love, becoming our Christian profession not sufficiently maintained; tale-bearing and detraction measurably discouraged; when differences arise, care has been extended to end them.

Third Ans.—More care as regards the several requisitions of this query, would be desirable.

Fourth Ans.—Friends are clear in the fore part of this query; not so clear of attending places of diversion; moderation and temperance generally observed.

Fifth Ans.—Aid and relief appear to be given, and advice extended when required.

Sixth Ans.—Friends endeavor to bear a testimony in the several particulars mentioned in this query.

Seventh Ans.—Friends are generally careful, so far as we know, to comply with the several requisitions of this query.

Eighth Ans.—Care is taken to deal with offenders nearly as queried after.

Ninth Ans.—None amongst us of the kind queried after.

Tenth Ans.—They are.

The Friends appointed to settle with the treasurer made a satisfactory report, and propose the name of Hulda R. Smith for treasurer the ensuing year, who is united with and appointed to that service.

The corresponding committee reports last year's labor performed.

Men Friends proposed the consideration of the revised Discipline in joint session, women Friends concurring we accordingly proceeded to that business. After some time spent in deliberation on portions of the work, we adjourned to meet 4th day afternoon in joint session.

FOURTH DAY AFTERNOON.

Near the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled in joint session, (for proceedings of which see Minutes of Men's Division).

Fifth of the week and 19th of the month, near the time appointed, Friends again assembled in joint session (for proceedings of which, see men's minutes).

FIFTH DAY AFTERNOON.

After finishing (in joint session) our deliberations on the book of discipline, we again assembled to transact the rest of the business coming before the meeting.

The joint committee on the subject of education, produced a written report, which was satisfactory, and the committee is continued to report next year.

One of the committee appointed to assist the clerk in revising and preparing the minutes of last year's meeting for publication and record, reports the service performed, and for the same service this year, we appoint Martha Wilson and Martha A. John, who are to report next year.

The committee appointed to prepare epistles in answer to those received from other Yearly Meetings, produced one for each, together with a minute of exercises, all of which being united with, are referred to the following Friends. viz: Hannah S. Mills, Lydia Griffith, Mary W.

Smith, Hulda R. Smith, Emma Wilson and Elmira Vale, who are to revise them, and place them in the hands of our correspondent, to forward to their respective destination and report next year. The correspondent also to report next year.

The committee on isolated Friends, and literature, made a satisfactory report, and is continued, to report to the Meeting next year.

With grateful feelings for the true interest and loving condescension manifested in the transaction of the business that came before us, we conclude, to meet again next year, at the same time and place, if so permitted.

CAROLINE LUKENS, *Clerk.*

MINUTES OF EXERCISES.

Our meetings have been characterized by a spirit of unity and fellowship, which indicates that Christian love exists among us. A concern was expressed that we should seek not only to *know* the will of our Father, but that our obedience should keep pace with our knowledge, this obedience not producing uniformity or sameness, but frequent diversity according to our condition, nature or circumstances; principles remain unchangeable, the application varying with our surroundings. We were reminded that hatred cannot dwell in the heart where the love of God is, and that repentance must precede the baptism of Christ.

Much lively exercise was felt in regard to the use of intoxicants, desires being expressed that we should refrain from their use medicinally as fast as substitutes may be found, and that we may use our influence with our physicians, it being believed that if their attention is aroused to the sad effects of the free use of stimulants as medicine, they would be more guarded and thoughtful in their prescription, and perhaps gradually abandon them.

We were counseled to cultivate love for one another, which precludes all bitterness, wrath, clamor or evil-speaking — to be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving, according to the injunction of the inspired

Apostle. More care in regard to reading and pondering the Scriptures of Truth was urged as being full of blessing to our own hearts and those around us.

EPISTLES RECEIVED.

From New York Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by adjournments, from the 27th of 5th month, to the 30th of the same, inclusive, 1878.

TO THE NEXT YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS TO BE HELD IN ILLINOIS.

Dear Sisters: Again we have met in our annual assembly to transact the business of our beloved Society.

We have the acceptable company of a number of ministers, from other Yearly Meetings, who have come "having their feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace," to preach life and salvation through obedience to the cross of Christ, as manifested in the soul, calling us to lives of practical righteousness in our homes, in our social intercourse, and in all our business relations, whereby our light may so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works may glorify our Father in Heaven. Faithfulness and consistency are called for in this our day, when the "Lo, here's" and the "Lo, there's" are calling us from the simple teachings of the light within.

The reading of the answers to the queries from our several quarterly meetings brought a deep and weighty exercise over many minds, and much loving advice, and tender admonition, were extended by livingly concerned Friends; encouraging us to a more faithful attendance of all our meetings. Mothers were feelingly counseled to take their young children with them, and thus, early in life, teach them to love to go to meeting and sit by the side of their mothers. Thus, step by step, they would be led on, and as they advanced in life, they would not feel easy to "neglect the assembling of themselves together" with their friends for the solemn purpose of worshiping God.

A word of caution was lovingly extended to us that we be guarded in our conversation, lest a word that would harm or wound another, should fall from our lips. Let us, dearly beloved, seek to "dwell in that love that thinketh no evil," and we shall be saved from all these things. "God is love," and they that dwell in love, dwell in Him.

The business of our meeting has been conducted in harmony, and loving condescension. The company of our younger sisters, some of whom are helping to bear the burdens of society, and their earnest, quiet manner of listening, while the gracious words flowed from the lips of our beloved mothers in Israel, has been strengthening and encouraging to us, giving us the hope that when those who are now bearing the burdens of the day are removed from works to rewards, a succession of faithful laborers will be qualified to fill their places.

The reports from the various First-Day Schools under our care, are so encouraging as to incite us to pursue a work in which so wide a field of usefulness presents itself, but let us remember that the aim of all religious instruction should be to lead the youthful mind to the Great Teacher, who is ever "His own Interpreter."

The condition of the Indians under our supervision, shows so marked an improvement during the past nine years, as to incite us to further effort in their behalf. They are in danger of being deprived of their lands by adverse legislation—and there is, therefore a special call to all who feel an interest in them, to aid in averting so great a wrong.

Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, have been received, and read; and with feelings of renewed gratitude to our Heavenly Father, for the rich blessings of His love, in thus cementing our hearts together in the bond of sweet sisterly affection and sympathy, we bid you an affectionate farewell, and are your sisters.

Signed by direction of the Meeting,

MARY JANE FIELD, *Clerk.*

From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by adjournments from the 13th of fifth month, 1878, to the 17th of the same, inclusive.

TO ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS:

DEAR SISTERS:—The reading of your acceptable epistle having renewed your remembrance among us, we feel constrained, in the same Christain love, to send you our greeting, and encouragement in faith and well-doing.

Our Yearly Meeting is largely attended, and, we are encouraged to believe, we are renewedly concerned to examine, by the light granted to humble seekers, the condition of our own household of faith; and also, to have an increased knowlege of the strength and sufficiency of our foundation — Christ within, the hope of glory; and whether, on this foundation, we have been favored to build to the honor of the ever blessed Truth.

Though the reading of the Queries, with their answers, has presented to our view many deficiencies calculated to humble, yet there have been evidences to preserve the hope that we are not a forsaken people, and to incite us "to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The great importance of the faithful attendance of our religious meetings, particularly on those days of the week when the custom of the world would surround us with temptations to lose sight of this duty, has been feelingly impressed upon us. The blessing attendant upon the withdrawal from the undue pressure of worldly cares, into the quiet waiting upon the Teacher who teaches as never man taught, has been felt in our midst. And our eyes have been anointed to see how much more firmly the standard of that faith which overcomes the world could be sustained in our Society, could we be found faithful to all the requisitions of its excellent order.

Though sorrow has clothed the minds of many, in marking the vacant places in our Zion, caused by the great reaper, Death, yet the cheering sight of so many of the younger members of society being assembled with us, bearing on their countenances and demeanor evidences

of heartfelt interest in the great and glorious cause that has drawn us together, still enables us to see the bow of promise spanning the view. And we have the bright hope of a succession of standard-bearers being prepared to carry on the work, when our life's labors are receiving their final reward.

With a salutation of love, we remain your sisters.

Signed by direction of the Meeting.

MARTHA MELLOR, *Clerk.*

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting, held in Baltimore, 10th mo., 1877.

TO THE NEXT YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS TO BE HELD IN ILLINOIS.

DEAR SISTERS:—Your acceptable epistle has been received and read in our meeting, and met with a warm response in our hearts, and our desire is to send a greeting of love and sympathy in return; but, we feel with you that these messages of remembrance can only be lively or profitable, when dictated by the Divine Guide, whose spirit strengthens the bonds that unite us, so closely, that time or distance cannot weaken them. Truly, we feel that the only safe place for those desiring to be taught in the school of Christ, is at the Master's feet. Our feelings go forth in sympathy to those within your borders who have long felt isolated and many times under discouragements on account of their inability to mingle with those of the same household of faith, and we trust that they may be refreshed and strengthened by meeting together in your annual gatherings. But to those we would say, be not disheartened, for the table is large, and if we only keep *very* near the Master, he will bless and break the bread and hand forth the food that is needful for us. He will not forget the scattered ones of His flock, no, not one lamb, and those who are weak and footsore, He will bear in His arms.

We have with us a number of Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose presence and ministry are truly acceptable. Our public meetings on first-day were favored sea-

sons, in which strong and living testimonies were born of the "Christ within," which is the corner stone of our faith, and we were earnestly entreated to mind the light which will illumine every faithful soul. We were exhorted not to wander from the Father's house and to impress upon the minds of children that they are already there and only leave it at their will. And to those who are striving and feeling that they are failing, the hopeful thought was given, that they might be in the Father's house without knowing it, as the helpless infant borne in the parental arms, knows not that it is in its home, so we may be there, tenderly watched and borne in the Everlasting arms.

Words of tender love and cheer were given to those who were laboring under discouragements—toiling on their way; and they were affectionately reminded of the blessed assurance, "as the day, thy strength shall be." The company of the dear aged ones among us, is a comfort and a strength. There are those to whom it may seem an evening sacrifice: to them we hope it may be blessed, and the aspirations of our hearts are, that a portion of their spirits may rest upon us.

A proposed change in the book of Discipline called forth expression of tender solicitude, lest we weaken our influence by too many changes, and we were affectionately exhorted to weigh the matter well, and not "put forth the hand unbidden."

Each year as we gather, we miss the faces and the tender counsels of some of the "mothers in Israel" who have borne much of the burden of society: and our hearts grow faint, and the cry is "O! what shall Israel do?" But we hope and believe that the Father is raising up standard bearers for His service, and the prayer of our hearts is that those upon whom the mantle may fall may be faithful—to be willing to say "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do!" and knowing the will of the Father to do it.

With a salutation of love, we remain your sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

MARY C. CUTLER, *Clerk.*

From Genesee Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Yarmouth, Ontario, by adjournments from the 10th of 6th mo. to the 13th of the same, inclusive, 1878.

DEAR SISTERS:—We are once more permitted to assemble for the purpose of transacting the business of our Yearly Meeting, and being furnished with a renewed evidence of the regard of the Divine Master by the overshadowing of His presence, we feel an increase of love which extends to all His household, as children of the same Father, speaking and understanding one language. But we humbly feel our own insufficiency, knowing that we only multiply "words without wisdom" unless we come under that qualifying power which giveth "understanding to the heart, and the answer of the tongue." And desires have been renewedly felt that we may henceforth be more willing to wait at wisdom's gate, patiently listening to know for ourselves what the requirements of the spirit of truth are that we may yield a ready obedience therewith. Even when our natural wills and inclinations are most in opposition thereto, there is every encouragement to be faithful, for He who has written a divine law in our hearts, and implanted desires within us after spiritual enjoyments, is abundantly able to satisfy, and richly reward all those who are faithful.

We have no new thing to write to you, dear Sisters, save that "which is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever;" yet can never grow old or lose its freshness and its power to those who receive it with gladness of heart.

Many and diversified are the allurements that call away from the fountain of divine life in every soul, and a watchful care is necessary, lest we allow the heart like, the inn of old, to be so filled with strangers that there is no room for the Heavenly guest.

Let us remember that to the attentive mind there is made known the riches of His grace, that he is calling us to walk in the way that leads to life, and as our trust and confidence are placed in Him, He will bring us forth through all to His praise and to our establishment on that foundation that can never be shaken.

A few Friends from a distance are with us, whose sympathy and silent travail of spirit have been strengthening to us, although no ministering Friends from other Yearly Meetings are in attendance our own have labored in the ability given to uphold the testimonies of truth which we profess, and to awaken desires after the enjoyment of a presence "which is life, and a loving kindness that is better than length of days."

In reviewing the state of society as shown by the answers to our queries, we acknowledge many deficiencies, particularly in the attendance of our religious meetings, and we were reminded that if we would mingle with those who are endeavoring to gather to the fountain of life, away from every hindering thing, we might often experience our spiritual strength renewed. When we recall the struggles and sufferings of our worthy predecessors who founded and often preserved their meetings in the face of cruel persecutions, how can we hold ourselves excused, with all the facilities we enjoy, if we neglect so reasonable a duty.

The cause of the Indian has received attention, and although there is much to discourage our further endeavors in their behalf, yet our sympathies are enlisted, and we trust way will be made wherein we can still serve them.

At a meeting of the First Day School Association, a lively interest was manifested, encouraging those who had schools established, to invite all classes of children, teaching them to listen to the Divine Father's call when He shows them what is right and what is wrong, that they may be strengthened to keep truthful and temperate, that the good seed sown in their youthful hearts might bring forth much fruit.

We were earnestly solicited to use our influence against the use of intoxicating liquors, and the depths of misery into which this habit plunges its victims was feelingly alluded to; all were encouraged to put their shoulders to the wheel which shall drive this great evil from our land.

"Shall we behold unheeding
Life's holiest feelings crushed?
When woman's heart is bleeding
Shall woman's voice be hushed?"

We have in attendance dear young sisters who in an especial manner have been the objects of tender concern and they were lovingly invited to part with all that is required in order to possess that which will prove to be "a pearl of great price," adorning them as no *art* can do, and enabling them to come up to the help of those who will become standard bearers in the cause of Truth.

Touching appeals have gone forth to the mothers that they clothe their little ones in comfortable garments, regarding this more than the demands of fashion, that while they are careful of the casket they forget not the precious gem which it contains, and that they be more engaged in the holy duty of sowing seeds of truth and virtue in their youthful minds, that in springtime there may be a bloom, promising an abundant harvest It will be like "bread cast upon the waters found after many days."

We have been favored to transact the business that has come before us, in great harmony and sisterly condescension, and have felt in our several sittings the wing of ancient goodness to be over us, and our hearts have been filled with praises to Israel's God, who remains as of old a safe hiding place in the day of trouble, and may we know a continuance of His regard and a daily walking in His paths.

Signed by direction, and on behalf of the Meeting by

PHEBE JANE NOXON, *Clerk.*

From Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held, by adjournments, from the 26th of 8th mo. to 29th of same, inclusive, 1878.

TO THE NEXT YEARLY MEETING OF ILLINOIS.

DEAR SISTERS:—As the sun of our universe sends forth his rays of light to illumine and fructify all nations, let us use it as a symbol and say, so doth our Heavenly Father send forth rays of love to warm and vivify the hearts of His children, drawing them together, and cementing them with a sense of His goodness.

Although miles intervene between us, we trust that we

are one in spirit, each endeavoring to do the Father's will as made known, desiring to so live that, individually, all may hear the language, "Let her alone; she hath done what she could."

Your Epistle, with others, has been received. With these we have been edified and instructed. We can appreciate the sense of comfort covering your assembly from the feeling of harmony which prevailed.

May it ever be thus with you. Our deliberations have been marked by the same characteristics, with very few elements to ruffle the surface of the stream, and the depths remaining clear after agitation.

We have had ministering Friends with us, whose loving words touched many hearts; and, doubtless, earnest aspirations have arisen to the All Father, "Help me to live the life of the righteous." Our attention has been impressively called to the importance of purity of language; and encouragement has been given to those who truly seek the ways of virtue and the paths of peace.

We feel that we are highly favored in the prevailing abstinence from alcoholic drinks of which our reports give an assurance. Care in this particular having yielded so rich a harvest, we desire to be strengthened to faithful labor in the future. May we not hope that those who use the polluting tobacco, or stain their lips with impure language, may yet be reclaimed?

Oh! may the kind Father help and strengthen us all to be earnest workers, whenever our hands and hearts find work to do.

With salutations of earnest love, we remain your sisters.

Signed by direction and in behalf of the Meeting.

JANE EDGERTON, *Clerk.*

From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by adjournments from the 1st of 10th mo. to the 4th of the same, inclusive, 1877.

TO THE NEXT YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS TO BE HELD IN ILLINOIS.

DEAR SISTERS:—Again it has been permitted us to assemble in a Yearly Meeting capacity, and we feel that the Master of assemblies has been with us; He has spread for us a sumptuous table, meats for the strong man, milk for the babes, water for the thirsty, and bread in such abundance that we gather up some of the fragments that you may share of the bounty.

Several Friends from a distance are with us at this time, whose company, encouragement and counsel have been very precious. We were greatly strengthened in the reading of your and other Epistles, and were gratified that you were enabled to gather from your scattered homes, and assemble as one household of the Lord's people, and were herein made partakers of His heavenly favors.

We feel to acknowledge a deep interest in your welfare, a part of your meeting having been embodied with us in a Yearly Meeting capacity, and here we feel that the promise has been fulfilled, "I will go with those that go, and stay with those that stay."

We have been counseled again and again to keep close to that Unerring Guide, which will always direct us aright; as the soul expands, all useless and unprofitable things will gradually fall away, leaving that pure simplicity that may be compared to ripe fruit.

The many privileges enjoyed by the women of our Society, giving us an independence of action and freedom of thought accorded to the women of no other society, were feelingly adverted to.

The state of society, the love and harmony existing, are all very encouraging, and although our meeting may not have been so large as at some other times, it has truly been a feast of love. As we look abroad over the land, and see the temporal blessings that surround us, the

abundant harvest, the peace and prosperity of our country, the efforts being made to promote temperance and encourage the poor inebriate to break his bonds, and rise again to manhood, we feel we have cause for humble thankfulness. By the great war now devastating Europe, we are reminded that "peace on earth and good will to men" is not yet established, and calls us to redouble our efforts in the cause of peace.

In the report of the Indian Committee, we are assured that this wronged and long neglected people were slowly but surely advancing toward civilization, and that their confidence and trust in Friends is encouraging to persevere in our labors, feeling that we with them will be benefitted by benevolence on our part.

With sisterly affection, we bid you farewell.

Signed in and by direction of the Meeting.

ANNA M. STARR, *Clerk.*

Minutes and Epistles

OF

FIRST DAY SCHOOL ANNUAL ASSOCIATION.

The Illinois First-Day School Association of Friends convened at Clear Creek, near Mount Palatine, in its Fourth Annual Meeting, on seventh day afternoon, 9th mo. 14, 1878. The clerk being absent, Benj. F. Nichols was appointed for the day. Written reports were received from the Quarterly Associations, with names of representatives, all of whom were present.

The Executive Committee having failed to present a plan of organization, as directed by minutes of last year, a report from a few interested friends was presented and read, which, after some consideration, was referred to the following committee for arrangement: Oliver Wilson, Martha Wilson, Griffith E. Coale, Mary T. Brooks, Ruth A. Dixon, Benj. F. Nichols, and Mahlon Hollingsworth, who are to report to a future sitting.

Blue River and Prairie Grove Quarterly Associations report their quotas of First Day School funds raised and forwarded to the Annual Association, which directs that they be paid to Oliver Wilson, who was appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Epistles were received from Indiana, Ohio, Baltimore, and Philadelphia associations, which were read, much to our encouragement and satisfaction.

To prepare answers to the Epistles received, and also Epistles to all associations composing the General Conference, and produce to next session, we appoint Edwin Vale, Jesse Mowrey, Edward Coale, Elmina Averill, Ruth Dixon, Mary Coale, Mary T. Brooks, Thomas A. Hogue, Ann Eliza Mead, Lydia A. Thomas, Ruth Dugdale, and Hulda Smith.

The Representatives are desired to confer together and produce to next session the names of persons to serve as clerk and assistant for the ensuing year.

The Meeting then adjourned, to meet second day evening, 9th mo. 16th, 7 o'clock.

BENJ. F. NICHOLS, *Clerk for the day.*
JOSEPHINE TOMLINSON, *Clerk.*

Second day evening, 9th mo. 16th, near the hour adjourned to, the Association again convened.

The Representatives report the names of Benj. F. Nichols for Clerk, and Josephine Tomlinson for Assistant, which was united with, and they appointed to these services for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed at last session to revise the plan of organization reported their labors, which, after some alterations, was adopted, and the committee released.

Elmina Averill, Edward Coale, Isaac Tomlinson, together with the clerks as *ex-officio* members, are appointed our Executive Committee for the two ensuing years.

The duty of appointing the committee to have charge of the correspondence in the several schools is for this year assigned to the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Epistles produced six, which were read and approved; they are placed in the hands of the Executive Committee for revision and arrangement, who are to present the same to the clerks, to be signed on our behalf and forwarded.

After a pleasant annual meeting of two sessions, we now conclude, to meet at this place on 7th day preceding next Yearly Meeting, at 3 o'clock.

BENJ. NICHOLS,
JOSEPHINE TOMLINSON, } *Clerks.*

RULES ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAME AND ITS SUB-ORDINATE ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOLS.

Believing that our efforts in the First Day school cause

are prompted by an approving Father, we deem it appropriate to enact the following rules for observance by our annual and subordinate associations.

1.—It shall be the duty of the delegates to the annual association to meet at the rise of the first session and select a suitable person for clerk and one for assistant: who are to enter upon their duties immediately after the reports of the delegates to the following session.

2.—An executive committee of three Friends to serve for two years shall be appointed, one of whose duties it shall be to nominate a Friend for treasurer, for two years; who is to make an annual report and pay out money on the order of the executive committee or association.

3.—At each annual meeting a committee shall be appointed to prepare epistles to the several associations.

4.—We direct that the superintendents of the several schools prepare a report of such schools to be forwarded to the Quarterly or half-yearly associations who are to make a general annual report to the annual association and appoint two or more representatives thereto.

5.—We also direct that a committee of two or more friends residing within the limits of monthly and preparative meetings be appointed to have a care over and to solicit correspondence to be circulated among the schools and interested friends.

6.—We recommend the following route be observed for all our communications:—

Blue River to Clear Creek, East Jordan, Wapsinonoc, New Sharon, Great Bend, Benjaminville, Wyanette, Prairie Grove, Marietta and Genoa.

The executive committee appoint as committee on correspondence, the following persons:

BLUE RIVER.

Mary T. Brooks, - - Salem, Washington Co., Indiana.
Mary McKnight, - - " " " "

CLEAR CREEK.

Oliver Wilson, - - - - - Clear Creek, Illinois.
Josephine Tomlinson, - - - - Mt. Palatine, "

EAST JORDAN.

Martha A. John, - - - - - - Sterling, Illinois.

WAPSINONOC.

Mahlon Hollingsworth, - - - - - Downey, Iowa.
Rebecca Thomas, - - - - - West Liberty, "

NEW SHARON.

Joseph M. Wood, - - - - - New Sharon, Iowa.

GREAT BEND.

Isaac P. Wierman, - - - - - Great Bend, Kansas.

BENJAMINVILLE.

Mary Smith, - - - Holder, McLean Co., Illinois.
Annie Dorland, - - - - - Benjaminville, "

WYANETTE.

Elmira Averil, - - - - - - Wyanette, Illinois.
Jesse Mowry, - - - - - - Bureau, Illinois.

PRAIRIE GROVE.

Theo. Russel, - - - - - - - Wenona, Iowa.
Sallie E. Cooper, - - - - - Winfield, "

MARIETTA.

Achsah Roberts, - - - - - - Marietta, Iowa.
Lauretta H. Nichols, - - - - State Centre, "

GENOA.

G. S. Truman, - - - - - Genoa, Nebraska.

We direct that the sum of ten dollars be raised by each Quarter, for the association fund.

EPISTLES RECEIVED.

TO THE FIRST DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING.

DEAR FRIENDS.—As the time approaches for your annual gathering, our thoughts are turned towards you, with sincere desire that you may experience the blessed influence of Divine love to flow from heart to heart, enabling you to labor harmoniously in the cause of truth.

Although we cannot of ourselves do any good without

Divine aid, we feel assured that our Heavenly Father will assist all who are endeavoring to benefit their fellow-creatures, and who rely on Him for guidance and support.

We have abundant reason to believe, that the First Day schools embraced in our association, have been doing a good work in training the youthful mind entrusted to our care, in the knowledge of gospel truth, and in the exercise of the benevolent affections.

We regard religious culture as the main purpose of the First Day school and the study of the Scriptures as one of the means to this end.

It is not merely to store the memory with scriptural knowledge, but also to cultivate in the mind a reverence for holy things, an interest in our religious testimonies, and a firm reliance upon the guidance of the inspeaking Word—the rock on which is founded the Church of Christ.

Your acceptable epistle was refreshing and encouraging to us and desiring a continuance of that strong attachment which has heretofore bound us together in Christian fellowship, we remain your friends.

On behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting First Day School Association.

EDWIN BLACKBURN,
LYDIA C. STABLER, } *Clerks.*

Baltimore, 9th mo., 5th, 1878.

TO ILLINOIS FIRST DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

DEAR FRIENDS:—We acknowledge the reception of your epistle, read at the late meeting of our association, with feelings of gratitude that you feel that living work is in your midst, and also that another year finds us steadfast in the faith that our work tends to wholesome growth in best things. Our reports were of such a character as to cheer and encourage. During the

general expression of sentiment and feeling called out by the reading of these, acknowledgment of unfaithfulness in prosecuting the work embraced in First Day School labor was in all cases supplemented by the assurance that loss had been sustained thereby. Once again came the spoken resolves to renew diligence, and where there had been a holding back that this should be the case no longer.

To the tried teacher, who almost concludes that the line upon line has failed to impress, that the here a little and there a little sends no roots and matures no fruits, and who turns for solace to the hope that at least the intent of the heart may be accounted worthy, how comforting comes the assurance that those whom they have met from week to week, as childhood has passed into youth, have realized a steady increase in interest, until the grand truths presented from time to time are grasped in a new light, and that they are ready understandingly to urge others to enter with them into this field of thought and discipline. May such reward be accepted in humility, with the remembrance that whoever may plant and water it is to God alone that we may ascribe the increase.

While there is truly a diversity of gifts, and a wide range for individuality in dispensing from these, the endowed teacher knows that to accomplish unexceptional work there must be an anchorage close to universal truth, where the eddies of distrust or dogma need least assail, and where alone there is hope of withstanding the currents of unrest to which the nature of man is exposed. Desiring that we, with you, may know more and more of this anchorage, we are your friends.

Prepared by direction of the Annual Meeting of the First Day School Association of Ohio, held 8th mo. 27th, 1878.

ISAAC T. MORRIS,
MERCY J. GRIFFETH, } *Clerks.*

TO THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WITHIN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING.

DEAR FRIENDS:—Since we last addressed you, we

have had no discouragements, but are grateful to acknowledge a steady progress.

In one of our Quarterly Meetings, where heretofore little attention has been paid to First-day School work, and only a few schools established, a Union has been formed and several conferences held, which have resulted in the opening of new schools, and the revival of others that had become weak and discouraged; so that that there appears to be every prospect of an enlarging field of labor within our borders.

In a few instances small schools have been suspended because of the lack of workers, and of a full awakening on the part of members of the meetings to the importance of the work; but we feel assured that the "little leaven" hid therein by the efforts the *few* have made, will ultimately "leaven" the whole lump; and these small meetings experience the reviving influence of the First-day School, when it is encouraged to perform its beneficent mission.

This has been the case in some instances already brought to our notice, and we offer it as an encouragement to all who are in weak and isolated places, to gather the two or three together, making an effort to do what they can;—for there is no such thing as ultimate failure in Truth. The good word spoken and the work performed in the spirit of dedication will not be lost.

We feel there is need of a deeper and more unselfish consecration to the noble work in which we are engaged. We can only increase or extend the interest when there is a recognition of its importance. It is not so much that we indoctrinate our children and youth in a particular form of belief, as that we infuse into their expanding intelligence a more earnest and living sense of the divine indwelling, and the power it gives when acknowledged and obeyed, to overcome the temptations that beset the pathway of the young.

This is the great want of the religious training of the present age, and the mission of Friends' First-day Schools is to meet this need, and to lead the youth committed to their care to trust with an abiding confidence in this

Heavenly Helper, which will guide them into such paths as will bring peace and safety to the soul. We who are testimony-bearers in this great cause *must* be true to the trust committed to our keeping, if we would see the work prospering in our hands.

Among the aids and accessories which we find of great service, the reading matter furnished the children cannot be too highly estimated. A library of well-chosen books, pure and healthy in their tendencies, is always an attraction to the children, and has much to do with the formation of character in the young.

The monthly visits of our child's paper, *Scattered Seeds*, are always welcomed. We would call the attention of your Association to the fact that, owing to the low price at which the club rates of this paper (for 40 copies and upward) was a few years ago reduced, there has been every year since a considerable deficiency in the receipts over the expenditures, that has to be made up by our Association. If each of the Associations would make an effort to increase its circulation within their limits, so as to create a demand for 1,500 or 2,000 more copies than are now printed, it would put the paper on an entirely paying basis, and also enable the committee to send copies to those mission schools which appeal to them so often for help. We trust this subject will claim your thoughtful attention.

The effort made some time ago to add to our list of library books works written by members of our Religious Society has not been attended with the success anticipated. "The Home Circle," a pure, simple, and interesting story of life among Friends, is the only one that has been brought out. The limited sale of this book has been a drawback to further efforts, though an attempt is about to be made to put into the hands of the printer one other manuscript accepted by our Association, which it is hoped will be ready for sale about the beginning of 1879.

With earnest desires that you may be refreshed and strengthened in your annual gathering, and find the good work of caring for the spiritual life of the young prospering in your hands, we remain your friends.

Prepared by the Executive Committee, and signed on behalf of the Association of Friends for the promotion of First-day Schools within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, by

JOS. M. TRUMAN, Jr.,
MATILDA GARRIGUES, } *Clerks.*

PHILADELPHIA, 9th mo., 3d, 1878.

TO THE FIRST DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS.

DEAR FRIENDS.—That better life, which we ourselves are seeking, while endeavoring to lead the little ones to find it also, has been quickened by the reading of the epistles from other Associations, and in accordance with the blessed law of love, which makes the cheerful giver the rich receiver, we render you a glad return.

Our work among the children requires much self-sacrifice, and patient endurance, which never fails to re-act with a healthy growth upon ourselves. As teachers, let us be vigilant of our opportunities for encouraging pure thoughts and unselfish action in these teachable minds. We cannot look around us upon the sin and sorrow, mostly the result of disobedience to Divine law in early youth, without heart-yearnings to save the dear children of the present generation from the same sad condition.

Our experience, if given to them in the tenderness of that genuine love, so dear to their little hearts and supported by a consistent example, cannot fail to make our schools a power in our Society, that will soon be felt and acknowledged as emanating from the one dear Father and Giver of all our blessings.

Let us ever be careful to present this better life in the bright and cheerful spirit which rightfully belongs to it, that it may attract and hold the attention of the young.

We feel greatly encouraged now that First day Schools have become fairly and fully established, and are in reality a part of the Society, even though not always so acknowledged, and we almost wonder that so important a work has been so long delayed.

Reports received, show active and earnest labor

amongst us, encouraged by the presence and sympathy of many old Friends. In this age of deep and earnest religious thought, most favorable opportunities seem to present for the right guidance of our beloved children and youth. Let us ever bear in mind the vital importance of keeping our own lives and conduct void of offence, that our example may be ever in harmony with our precepts. Children are keen and close observers, and our every expression of countenance and tone of voice, is making a deep and lasting record upon their impressible minds and hearts.

The precious principles of our Society are constantly gaining ground, and we trust that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, may be led to find that *true light*, which will guide them out of all darkness and doubt.

Let us teach our scholars to think for themselves, to cultivate independence and originality of character, this being a safe, sure foundation for the Divine Spirit to enlighten and vivify. It is evident that in many places our First Day Schools have increased the attendance of meetings, and if rightly conducted, they are, and will continue to be the nurseries of the Church. Certainly much of the seed sown, is cast into good ground, and springing up will produce the blessed fruit of honesty, sobriety, charity and all the Christian graces so beautifully taught by the blessed Master, in His Sermon on the Mount.

Hoping, that we with you may remain steadfast in the work whereunto we have been called, with love, we remain your friends.

Signed, on behalf of Indiana First Day School Association, by AARON G. GANO, EMILY P. R. YEO, } *Clerks.*

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George S. Truman, Genoa, Nebraska.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

opens in business session at 10 o'clock A. M. on the second second-day preceding the last first day in the 9th mo. of each year, being in 1879, 9th mo. 15th.

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND ELDERS

gathers at 10 o'clock A. M. on the seventh day preceding the Yearly Meeting.

THE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

meets at 8 o'clock A. M. the second-day on which the Yearly Meeting opens.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

are held during Yearly Meeting week, at 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock P.M. on First day, and 10 o'clock A.M. on Fourth day.

ILLINOIS FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

meets at 3 o'clock P. M. on seventh day preceding the Yearly Meeting.

NOTICE TO ISOLATED FRIENDS.

Friends whose membership is with distant Meetings, or who are not connected with the Society, but who wish to renew their interest and association in it, can send their name and post-office address to the Chairman of our Committee on Isolated Friends and Pamphlet Literature (Abel Mills, Mt. Palatine, Putnam County, Ill.), when they will receive a copy of the Minutes, if not already received, and if desired, a copy of such pamphlets or leaflets as may be in the hands of the committee for distribution.

Any information regarding Meetings, Committees, or Society affairs can be obtained from the same committee.

Leaflets published last year can still be had by sending to the above address.

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